

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 02390 131306Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 SS-15 ABF-01 MMO-01 EB-08
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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2390
STADIS////////////////////////////////////
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, APER, JO
SUBJECT: PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS OF ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION

REF: A) 1975 AMMAN 8879, B) 1977 STATE 256456, C) 1977 AMMAN
8083, D) 1977 AMMAN 8084

1. IN REF A, I AGREED TO ABOLISHMENT OF STATE FUNDED
SECRETARIAL POSITION FOR ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION
IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS SECRETARIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY
USAID/J, WITH CAVEAT THAT AS USAID/J EXPANDED AND IF
ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL WORKLOAD INCREASED SUFFICIENTLY,
RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE POSITION MIGHT BECOME
NECESSARY. WE HAVE NOW REACHED POINT WHERE STATE-FUNDED
SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION IS NECESSARY.
POSITION WAS ABOLISHED AT URGING OF NEA AGAINST MY
WISHES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN URGENTLY-NEEDED COMMERCIAL
POSITION AT EMBASSY JIDDA. THIS WAS BEFORE THE DAYS OF
WORLD-WIDE POSITION RE-ALLOCATION AND I BELIEVE
OUR CURRENT NEEDS DESCRIBED BELOW MERIT A RESTORA-
TION OF THIS POSITION.

2. USAID/J NOW CONSISTS OF 16 OFFICERS AND ONE
JAO POSITION AND WILL PROBABLY EXPAND TO 3 MORE
OFFICERS BY JUNE 1978. WE ESTABLISHED
INDEPENDENT ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION IN SEPTEMBER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 02390 131306Z

1975 SHORTLY BEFORE ARRIVAL OF PRESENT SECTION CHIEF,
LLOYD GEORGE. SINCE EARLY 1976, WHEN IT BECAME SIMPLY
IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ONE USAID/JO AMERICAN SECRETARY TO
PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE/SECRETARIAL SUPPORT FOR BOTH
USAID/J AND NEW ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION, USAID/J
HAS FUNDED DIRECT RESIDENT-HIRE SECRETARY FOR FULL-
TIME (EMBASSY) SECRETARIAL POSITION IN ECON/COMM

SECTION. FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEGUN TO MAKE THIS ARRANGEMENT UNTENABLE: A) USAID/J ITSELF IS RUNNING INTO SEVERE PERSONNEL AND OPERATING EXPENSE CONSTRAINTS AND DOES NOT WSH TO CONTINUE FUNDING FULL-TIME SECRETARY FOR OUR ECON/COMM SECTION. (AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR WHEELER COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS SITUATION ON HIS RECENT VISIT HERE AND I REQUESTED THAT HE TAKE THE MATTER UP DIRECTLY WITH THE DEPT IN HOPES THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP FREE A STATE POSITION FOR THIS SLOT); B) WHILE SECTION HAS GOTTEN ALONG WITH SUCCESSION OF MISSION WIVES ROTATING IN ECON/COMM SECRETARIAL SLOT, PRESENT INCUMBENT IS RETURNING TO STATES IN MID-APRIL AND SOLE APPLICANT FOR POSITION HAS NO RPT NO PREVIOUS SECRETARIAL EXPERIENCE (THE AMMAN BUSINESS BOOM AND GROWING NUMBER OF U.S. CONTRACTORS HERE HAVE EXHAUSTED OUR SUPPLY OF DIRECT LOCAL HIRE AMERICANS; C) PRESENT COMMERCIAL OFFICER, TOM RUTH, IS DUE TO DEPART AMMAN AT ABOUT SAME TIME AS ECON/COML CHIEF LLOYD GEORGE IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR REASSIGNMENT, RESULTING IN COMPLETE TURNOVER IN THIS SMALL BUT IMPORTANT SECTION; AND D) ADDITION OF TERP IN MAY WILL REQUIRE QUALITY OF TYPING THAT SIMPLY CANNOT BE ASSURED BY CONTINUED RELIANCE ON INEXPERIENCED DIRECT-HIRE SECRETARIES. REGARDING SECTION WORKLOAD, I BELIEVE THAT FOUR-FOLD INCREASE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 AMMAN 02390 131306Z

IN TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC INITIATED BY SECTION IN 1977 COMPARED TO 1975 IS AS GOOD INDICATION AS ANY OF OVERALL INCREASE.

3. SINCE ITS CREATION IN LATE 1975, ECON/COMM SECTION HAS MORE THAN JUSTIFIED ITS INDEPENDENT STATUS. AS I INDICATED IN REF C), DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRE ADDITION OF AN OFFICER TO MEET PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED DEMANDS: SECTION'S RESOURCES ARE NOW SO TIGHT THAT WE ONLY RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO SPARE LLOYD GEORGE TO ATTEND NEA REGIONAL ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN TANGIER NEXT MONTH. SITUATION WILL BECOME INTOLERABLY TIGHT WITH EVENTUALITY OF DEVELOPMENTS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH #2 ABOVE.

4. IN SUM, I BELEIVE IT IS NOW ESSENTIAL TO RE-ESTABLISH SECRETARIAL POSITION ABOLISHED IN 1975. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN ADDING OFFICER TO SECTION, AS WE HAVE REQUESTED, SECRETARIAL POSITION WILL BECOME EVEN MORE URGENT NEED. IF WE ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL, A COMPETENT DIRECT HIRE SECRETARY IS STILL

URGENTLY REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT NEEDED
TO COPE WITH THE HEAVY WORKLOAD.
PICKERING

NOTE BY OC/T: STADIS CAPTION ADDED PER AMMAN SVC NBR 40.

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